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From the Editor

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From the Editor...

Welcome to the Fall 1999 issue of the *Journal of Transportation Management*. If you take just a few minutes of your valuable time to scan the contents, I think that you will find something of interest both personally and professionally. The diversity of articles and topics covered goes beyond what you would expect to find and is indicative of the diversity defining our industry. I am always indebted to the authors for their patience, quality of research and writing, and for thinking of the *JTM* as an outlet for their work. I offer my sincere gratitude to the members of the Editorial Review Board who contribute to the success of this and every issue. Remember that the reviewers are volunteers—they agree to give their time and expertise and ask for nothing in return. I could not do my job without them. Steve Rutner and Brian Gibson, my associate editors, continue to add quality leadership and direction to the *Journal*. Many people contributed to the completion of this issue. I'm sure that you will enjoy the end result!

The lead article in this issue, by Julie Gentry, Matthew Waller, and Scott Keller, reports the results of a study of purchasing strategies among manufacturing firms. They identify four hybrid purchasing strategies that fall between the two extremes of transaction-based and just-in-time purchasing. The second article, by Rick Clarke, chronicles the development of U.S. maritime unions and, more recently, their decline in membership and influence. Changes in union power and influence are also discussed within the context of maritime policy and regulation. Drew Stapleton and Virginie Saulnier discuss the history of INCOTERMS in the third article. In addition to carefully contrasting the 1990 and 2000 versions of the INCOTERMS, the article provides a clear and concise description of each of the 13 international commercial terms. Uma Gupta, Randy Butler, and Thomas Milner offer an inside look at the development of an automated gate system at Union Pacific Railroad in the fourth article of this issue. The case study follows the implementation of the system for fully automating the data collection, inspection, assessment, and reporting of damage claims to rail equipment. In the final article of this issue, John Kent, Stephen Parker, and Charles Pettijohn summarize the results of a 1999 survey of truckload shippers concerning the impact of Y2K on their anticipated volume of shipments and equipment needs. They also look at what actually occurred in the dry van, temperature controlled, and flatbed segments of this industry after the new year began. They provide a unique look at the "before and after" activity associated with the Y2K scare. There should be something for everyone here. I hope that you take the time to read each of the articles in this issue. I think you will be glad that you did.

As always, I thank John Youngbeck, CEO of the International Intermodal EXPO, and his board of directors for their commitment not only to the *Journal of Transportation Management* and Delta Nu Alpha International Transportation Fraternity but also to the future of logistics and transportation education.

Speaking of commitment and financial support, remember that we cannot survive and continue to publish without reader support. Please join or renew your membership in Delta Nu Alpha International Transportation Fraternity and subscribe to the *Journal of Transportation Management*. Share this issue with a colleague and encourage him/her to subscribe today!

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